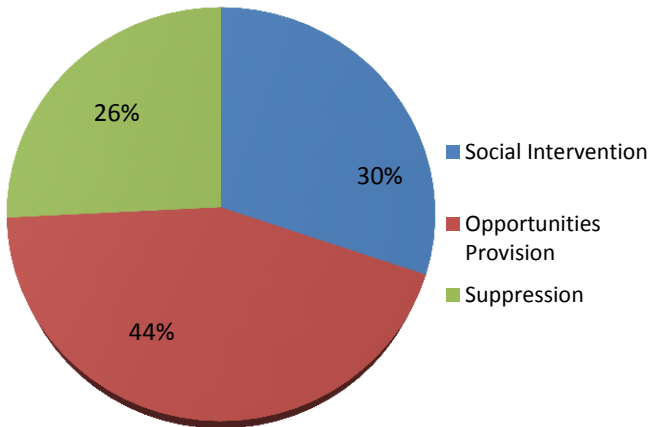


# Lowell Shannon CSI, 2015

Funded Partners: Boys and Girls Club, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, International Institute, Lowell Adult Education Center, Lowell Community Health Center, Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School, Lowell Police, Lowell Schools, Career Center of Lowell, Lowell Parks & Recreation Department, UTEC, Juvenile Court Restorative Justice Diversion, West End Gym, YWCA

This initiative is funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research, Justice and Prevention Division, Daniel Bennett, Secretary

**Figure 1: Lowell Shannon CSI 2015**  
**Funding Allocation: \$607,705**



## Highlights of Shannon Participants:

### Funded Population:

- 18 funded programs
- 2,837 youth served
  - 253 are proven risk or gang involved

### Education/Employment:

- 7 obtained a High School Equivalency Diploma
- 59 completed a job training program
- 72 had subsidized summer employment
- 705 participated in academic support programs

### Law Enforcement/Courts and Prosecution:

- 1,408 hours of hot spot policing patrols
- 40 gang members/high impact players arrested
- 37 police encounters involved seizure of cocaine and 35 encounters involved seizure of marijuana

### Personal Development:

- 219 received case management
- 49 received mental health counseling
- 196 connected to resources by outreach workers
- 1,012 participated in youth development programs

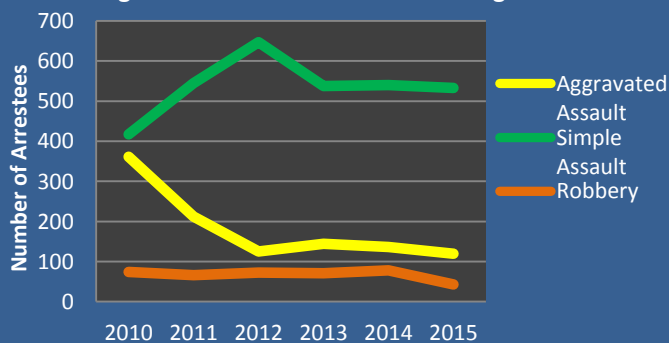
### Community Mobilization

- 9 Lowell Youth Development Committee meetings held

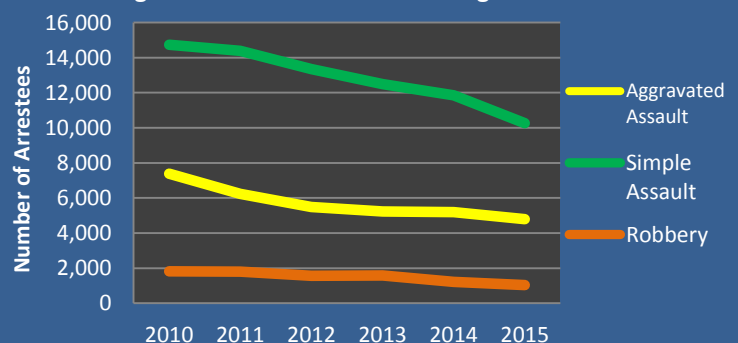
**Community Gang Problem:** From January through August of 2015, there were 206 gang related crimes in the city, an increase of 4% from the same period in 2014. Two feuding gangs committed a significant amount of the gang and firearm crime in 2015. Sixty percent of suspects in gang-related crimes were younger than 25. There are approximately 1,000 individuals in the Lowell Police Department's gang database representing 15 active gangs.

**Shannon Strategy:** In 2015, Lowell received \$607,705 in Shannon CSI funds to focus on suppressing retaliatory violence, intervening in the lives of youth already impacted by gangs and youth violence and providing positive alternatives to at-risk youth. Lowell continually reviews data and makes modifications to strategies based on trends in the target population and the city's violent hot spots. Lowell's partners provide job training, job placement, case management, street outreach and mental health services as well as a variety of recreational activities. As Figure 2 shows, over the past five years of Shannon CSI funding, Lowell has experienced declines in arrests for aggravated assault and robbery for youth ages 14-24 years.

**Figure 2. Lowell Violent Arrestees Ages 14-24**



**Figure 3. MA Violent Arrestees Ages 14-24**



Prepared in collaboration with the Research and Policy Analysis Division and the Shannon CSI Statewide Research Partner-Clark University.

Information contained in this report is from funding applications, quarterly reports supplied by the site, DESE, US Census, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and MA State Police Crime Reporting Unit.

### Community Risk Factors

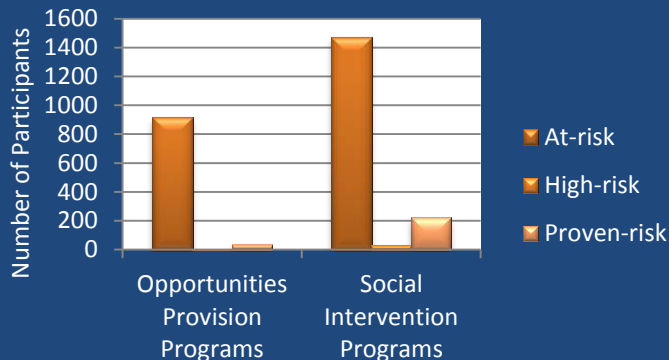
Each community receiving Shannon CSI funds must demonstrate a need for funding based on a high number of risk factors present in the community which perpetuates youth and gang violence. Almost one fifth of Lowell's population lives below the poverty line. Almost half of the student population is categorized as economically disadvantaged, as compared to 26.3% statewide. The out-of-school suspension rate is 6.2% and the four year drop-out rate is 6.8%. Given these community level risk factors, the successful transition of many Lowell youth into adulthood is challenging compared to other non-disadvantaged communities.

Table 1. Lowell Risk Factors, 2015

	Lowell	State
<b>Poverty/ Unemployment</b>		
Poverty <sup>a</sup>	19.0%	11.4%
Economically Disadvantaged <sup>b</sup>	49.0%	26.3%
Unemployment rate	6.1%	4.6%
<b>Education/ School Performance</b>		
Graduation rate	78.8%	87.3%
Dropout rate	6.8%	5.1%
ELL Students	26.6%	8.5%
Suspension rate	6.2%	2.9%
Bachelor's Degree (25+)	22.4%	39.4%
<b>Total population (2014 estimate)</b>	<b>109,945</b>	<b>6,745,408</b>
<b>Total public school population (2014-2015)</b>	<b>14,075</b>	<b>955,844</b>

<sup>a</sup>As defined by the US Census Bureau  
[www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html)  
<sup>b</sup>As defined by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/ed.html>

Figure 4. Number and Risk Level of Lowell Shannon Participants by Comprehensive Gang Model Strategy Area



### Individual Risk Level Definitions

**At-risk youth** are in danger of engaging in risky behaviors because of the presence of risk factors in their environment (either home or community). These factors include but are not limited to: lack of healthy role models; poor community education outcomes; high rates of community substance abuse; high rates of community violence; and high unemployment and/or poverty rates.

**High-risk youth** are exposed to similar risk factors as at-risk youth, and are exposed to additional risk factors such as school failure or early school leaving; substance abuse; court involvement; witnessing violence; or violent victimization.

**Proven-risk youth** are identified as those youth being perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence.

### Overview: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Gang Model

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Shannon Community Safety Initiative (CSI) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM). The CGM is a multi-sector approach to addressing a community's gang and youth violence problem. After completing a needs assessment, communities assemble a steering committee which uses data to develop strategies in the following five areas:

- **Social intervention programs** for gang involved and proven risk youth include street outreach and case management. These programs reach out and act as links to gang-involved youth, their families, and other traditional social service providers. For high risk youth and at-risk youth, social intervention programs can include drop-in recreation, positive youth development, and other mechanisms to reach young people and connect them to positive adults and constructive activities.
- **Suppression programs** include close supervision or monitoring of gang involved youth and other high impact players by police, prosecutors, probation officers, and other officers of the court. These programs include hotspot patrols, law enforcement home visits, ride-alongs, re-entry, and special prosecutors.
- **Opportunity provision programs** provide education, training, and employment programs for gang involved youth and young people at high risk for youth violence and gang involvement.
- **Organizational change** is the development and implementation of policies and procedures that result in the most effective use of available and potential resources, within and across agencies, to better address the gang problem.
- **Community mobilization** includes educating the community about gang and youth violence trends in their city or neighborhood and involving them in strategies to confront the problem.